

Spring 1-15-2014

# ENG 5001-001: Studies in Old and Middle English Literature

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English 5001  
 Old English--Spring 2013  
 Policies and Procedures  
 Shonk

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**Course Objectives:** The primary objective of the course is to attain a command of Old English such that, armed with a good dictionary, students will be able to translate virtually any piece of Old English Literature. A secondary objective, of course, is to come to an understanding of the culture, the literature, and the history of the Anglo-Saxons. To fulfill these objectives, the course meetings will be divided among lectures on aspects of language, history, and culture; student translations of literary works; and discussions of the literature that the students have translated.

**Texts:**

*A Guide to Old English*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., Mitchell and Robinson  
*The Cambridge Old English Reader*, Marsden, ed.  
*A Student Edition of Beowulf*, Jack, ed.

**Course Requirements:**

Weekly translations	15%
Midterm	15%
Presentation	20%
Final Exam	25%
Research Paper	25%

**My Expectations:** At most universities, this course is taught at the graduate level, as it is here. Consequently, my expectations are that students work and learn at the graduate level. Late work and unfinished preparations, for example, are not indicative of work at that level. Moreover, students are expected to absorb much of the text's presentation of grammatical and syntactical elements on their own, lectures on the readings intended to highlight critical areas. Finally, presentations to the seminar are expected to be amply researched, meaningful, and professional in presentation.

English 5001  
Course Syllabus  
Spring 2014  
Shonk

- Jan. 16 Introduction to the course; Backgrounds; Orthography; Phonology; Inflections
- 23 Nouns (*Guide* 20-30); Adjectives (*Guide* 31-34); *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* (Reader, years dccc lxxxi-dcccc xcvi)
- 30 Strong Verbs (*Guide* 35-45); *Chronicle*, dccc xvii—Millesimo iii
- Feb. 6 Weak Verbs (*Guide* 46-50); Anomalous Verbs (*Guide* 51-53); Adverbs (*Guide* 53-54); *The City of Cannibals* (to be provided)
- 13 Word Formation (*Guide* 55-60); Syntax (*Guide* 61-70); *City of Cannibals* (cont.)
- 20 Syntax (*Guide* 70-81); *Battle of Brunanburh* (Reader 86-91)
- 27 Syntax (*Guide* 81-92); *Battle of Maldon* (Reader 253-64)
- Mar. 6 Midterm Exam
- 13 Spring Break—No Classes
- 20 Syntax (*Guide* 93-103); *Wanderer* (*Guide* 280-87)
- 27 *Seafarer* (*Guide* 288-94)

- Apr. 3 *Dream of the Rood* (Guide 268-757)
- 10 *The Miracle of Caedmon* (Guide 76-85); *A Translator's Problems* (Reader 122-29)
- 17 *Wife's Lament* (Guide 276-79); *Wulf and Eadwacer* (Guide 310-12); *Riddles*
- 24 *Satan's Challenge* (Reader 130-37)
- May 1 Aelfric's *St. Edmund* (Guide 203-11)